

THE ANTIQUARY.

SATURDAY, OCT. 21st, 1871.

THE DREWSTEIGNTON CROMLECH.

THE tripod-like arranged stones on Shilston farm, in the parish of Drewsteignton, Devonshire, may be regarded as a very favourable example of a *three-pillared quoit*, or *cromlech*. It is easily accessible from Exeter, being distant about thirteen miles as the crow flies, and a little south of the Oakhampton road.

Etymologically considered, Shilston, the name of the farm on which the cromlech stands, is said to mean *Shelf-stone*, or *Shelving-stone*, evidently in allusion to the position of the covering- or cap-stone. In support of this derivation, Risdon, an old Devonshire historian, tells us that in an ancient deed he found the name spelt *Shilfestan*, but the present mode of spelling appears to be as old as 24 Edw. I. (1295). In that year Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Devon, held *Shilston*. I do not wish to speak disparagingly of the above explanation of the meaning of the name, as nothing seems to be more plausible, and it is no uncommon occurrence for a farm to be called after some remarkable object close by. Wherever such is the case, it is a pretty sure proof, were there none besides, that the stones were in position long before the occupation of the locality for agricultural purposes, and had already obtained some local celebrity. But on the other hand, the origin of the name Drewsteignton has nothing to do with the cromlech. It is certainly one that at first sight might excusably lead astray the archaeologist from the first syllable *Drew*, and its similarity of sound to Druid and other kindred words. But a glance at the records will soon dispel all these reveries, and lead us into a more trustworthy channel. Thus it appears that a person of the name of Drogo or Drews de Teignton held lands in the parish in the reigns of Henry II. and Richard I. The corruption into Drewsteignton is obvious, and there are parallel instances in Bishop's Teignton and King's Teignton, both in Devonshire and close to the river Teign.

Popularly speaking, the Drewsteignton cromlech is called "The Spinster's Rock," just as in Cornwall nearly all the cromlechs are known locally as "Giant's Quoits." Here, at Shilston, the stones are said to have been erected by three spinsters early one morning before they had had their breakfast, "These spinsters," says Chapple, "(though the appellation among lawyers is peculiar to maiden women, but seems to have been originally derived from the common employment of young girls in former ages) the inhabitants represent as having been not only spinsters in the former sense, but also spinners by occupation. For, according to their account, they did it after their usual work, and *going home with their pad*, as the phrase here is, that is carrying home their pad of yarn to the yarn-jobber, to be paid for spinning it. And, on their return, observing such heavy materials unapplied to any use, and being strong wenches (giantesses we may presume, such as Gulliver's Glumdal-

clitch, or the Blouzes of Patagonia), as an evidence of their strength and industry, and to shame the men who, either from weakness or laziness, had desisted from the attempt, they jointly undertook this task, and raised the unwieldy stones to the height and position in which they still remain. This is the tale, which they say has been handed down to them from generation to generation." So much for the legend, now for a few facts.

The Drewsteignton cromlech is called by Polwhele, "the *sol tary* cromlech of Devonshire," and it certainly is the only one not in a dismantled condition, but there are remains of other structures on Dartmoor evidently of the same kind. There is one, for instance, at Merivale Bridge, but unfortunately very much mutilated, the capstone having been wantonly cleft in two. At Shilston there are four stones, three of which support the capstone at an elevation of about 6 feet. This covering stone or quoit is said to weigh 16 tons 16 lbs, and to have a cubic content of 216 feet. Its greatest length is about 15 feet, and its greatest breadth 10 feet; the intermediate measurement, however, vary considerably, owing to the irregularity of the stone. In size, therefore, it resembles the cromlech at Lanyon, in western Cornwall, whose cover-stone dimensions are 17 feet 4 inches by 10 feet 2 inches. The thickness of the Drewsteignton quoit is about 2 feet in the middle.

In 1862 a calamity happened to this cromlech which might have put an end to its existence altogether, but thanks to the energy of certain local parties who were alive to its antiquity and to the great interest attaching to such objects, it was rescued from an untimely end. It appears that during a very violent winter storm, the capstone fell, the supports gave way, and the whole became a ruin. In that state it might have remained to this day, but it was replaced, as we shall see, with much care, very soon after the occurrence.

The cause of the fall has thus been explained by Mr. G. Wareing Ormerod, the Devonshire geologist. "The heavy quoit has acted as a wedge on the stone *against* which it rested (and which still remains) and has pushed it a few inches backwards; the ground, which is a light granite gravel, being saturated by the unusually long rains of this spring, and thus rendered softer than usual; the giving way of this stone would cause the quoit to move forwards, and it would draw with it the two stones on which it rested. The action on these two stones was clearly seen at the time of the accident. One stone was only about eighteen inches in the ground, and this has been drawn over; the other was of weak coarse granite; this was moved a little, and then it broke off near the surface of the ground. . . . Probably if the green sward had been preserved for a few yards round the cromlech the fall would not have taken place; but the field has been in tillage, and the support has been diminished by the gradual lowering of the surface thereby, and the action of Dartmoor storms on the broken up soil, in which the upright stones had but a slight hold."

Mr. Ormerod's expression "against which it rested" reminds me of a mis-statement in a recent account of the Pre-historic Antiquities of Dartmoor by Mr. Spence Bate. (*Four. Anthropological Institute*, vol. 7 p. cxvii). I there read—"As now standing two of the upright stones are placed under the quoit, near the margin, while the third is outside of it, the edge of the quoit resting in a notch

about eight or ten inches from the top. This, I believe, is not the original position, but when it had been raised to this point the firmness of its bearing, together with the difficulty of moving so great a mass induced the restorer to let it rest." But it so happens there is evidence to show that the capstone originally rested not on, but against the third supporter, and it was to this that its fall may be partly attributed, *i.e.* to the outward thrust. Thus Mr. Ormerod has said that "the quoit, prior to the accident, rested on the tops of two stones, and *against the sloping sides of the upper part of the third.*" His statement is confirmed by a sketch of the cromlech published in 1805 for the *Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet*. Here is seen the third supporting stone projecting just *above* the lower edge of the capstone, the latter resting against the inner face of the supporter. As most of the sketches of the cromlech I have seen do not clearly show this peculiarity, it is interesting to note this exception. Mr. Bate seems to have been thoroughly misinformed on this point when making his inquiries.

But to return from this digression. Unlike Lanyon cromlech in Cornwall, which was allowed to remain seven or eight years before being put up again, this Drewsteignton quoit was replaced in the November of the same year in which it fell. (1862). Thanks to Mr. Ormerod's industry there were plans and drawings whereby a correct restoration could be effected, which is too often *not* the case when work of this kind is attempted.* It may be added that although the ground was disturbed under the quoit, no remains were discovered tending to reveal the object of its original erection on what was then probably a moorland tract. It is now on the verge of the moor district. No doubt Drewsteignton, like all other cromlechs, had a sepulchral use, but its contents have long been rifled and all direct evidence lost.

E. H. W. DUNKIN.

Oct. 11, 1871.

HALF-HOURS AT LONDON DEALERS IN ARTICLES OF VIRTU.

NO. 1.—MR. GEORGE DAVIS' ROOMS.

OUR introductory visit is to the show rooms of Mr. George Davis, of Cranbourne Street, Leicester Square, whose collection of pictures, although not an extensive one, contains examples of some of the best masters in ancient and modern art, and would well repay a connoisseur the trouble of a visit. The first picture we shall notice is attributed to one Corregio, galleay size, the subject of which is "The Holy Family." In the foreground of a charming landscape the Virgin Mary is seen seated, holding the child Jesus, who is standing upon her knee holding an apple, on which His august mother is smilingly watching. Behind her stands St. Joseph, who is looking over her left shoulder, and meditatively watching the Divine Infant, around whose forehead circles a radiancy of glory. The composition of this work is grandly conceived, and it is enhanced by an appropriate background which improves the grouping. The flesh-tints are of that charming pearly colour for which Corregio is so famous. The drapery of the figures is broad and flowing,

and thoroughly harmonious in colouring, with a mellowness that at once attracts and pleases the eye. This reputed work of Corregio is worthy of a place in any gallery.

The next picture is one by Quintin Matsys, the sublime subject being "The Head of Christ" as the "Man of Sorrows." This impressive work is painted upon panel, and is a fine specimen of the style of the great artist, being executed in his best manner. It is full of intense expression, most powerfully portraying the supreme physical and mental agony of our Lord, which was soon to culminate on the cross. There is, withal, no harshness in the divine face, and one might long meditate on the patient countenance whose every feature, under suffering, manifests unbounded love. This covetable master-piece is in a perfect condition, the pigments retaining their original depth, and now looking as fresh as an enamel.

The next picture to be noticed is "Tobit and the Angel," by Titian. This charming work of art is also a cabinet gem, being an early production by this celebrated master, executed in the Bellini style. According to "Bryant's Dictionary," it appears that this is one of the two first known pictures by the artist, after leaving his instructor, Bellini, and it was some time the property of King George III., who had it at his lodge at Weymouth. As a gallery picture it is peculiarly fitting, and if well hung its manifold merits would command constant admiration.

We now come to a brilliant specimen by J. B. Greuze, the subject of which appears to be one of a set of four. It represents a family group. A grandmamma has come to see a newly-arrived infant. The arrangement of the figures is admirable, and they eloquently tell the eventful incident in domestic history. Nothing can surpass the peculiar and harmonious colouring of this canvas, which possesses the mellowness characteristic of this artist's productions, and its possession will be esteemed a prize by the collector.

We now turn to a painting on panel, by David Teniers, jun., which is certainly one of his finest works. Its size is about 36 inches by 28 inches, and represents "Boors Carousing." They are drinking in front of an ale-house, and a man standing on a tub is playing a bagpipe. The quiet humour in the scene is strongly marked, and the details throughout evince a careful finish, while the sharpness of touch, and that silvery tone of the painting, so characteristic of Teniers, fully vouch its genuineness.

"A Sleeping Cupid," by Guido Reni, deserves notice, as one of his best specimens. It is rich in flesh-tints, and the limbs of the slumbering god are finely rounded, while his drowsy countenance betrays his suspended and innocent mischief. This picture would grace a spacious dining-room or corridor.

A portrait by P. Vandyke is our next. It is that of Ann Hyde, as Diana proceeding to the chase. As an example of this artist's labours, this is a very fair specimen—rotund, transparent, and life-like. Its art qualities highly recommend it, and its historical interest increases its value to the collector of national portraits.

Our next is a fine piece by Canaletti, signed and dated 1720, painted in his early style. It represents a landscape and ruins. It is a pleasing bit, and admirably shows the peculiar points of this celebrated and favourite artist, whose works are in rising demand.

Three portraits claim a line or two. The first is a highly-finished one by Sir Joshua Reynolds, being the half-length portrait of Mr. Cox, who was some time a warden of the Goldsmiths' Company. The next is a half-length portrait of an Italian nobleman, by Sir Anthony Vandyke, a very impressive picture done in his bold and dashing style. The third is an exceedingly fine portrait by Pontormo, equal in execution to the work of Raphael. These are desirable pictures, and well worth the money asked for them.

A very distinguished picture is that of "The Archangel Michael overpowering Satan," painted by Raphael, about

* Justice compels me to say that the expense of raising the quoit was defrayed by the rector of Drewsteignton, the Rev. W. Ponsford.

his twentieth year, after the manner of Perrugino. The principal figure, which possesses great majesty, and is grandly wrought, appears to have been a copy of Perrugino's St. Michael, now in the National Gallery, and is scarcely inferior to that well-known production.

We conclude this paper with the notice of a most charming rural picture by John Constable, entitled "Milk Time." In the foreground of a delightful landscape a herd of cows is seen in a meadow, near Arundel, Sussex, the time of day represented being a summer afternoon. The surrounding atmosphere is aglow with warmth and light, but here and there the speary grass is shaded and sheltered by the trees, whose foliage seems to rustle in the cooling breeze. The many-coloured kine are beheld passively yielding their lacteal fluid to the vibratory pressure of the rustics' palm, the head of each animal being in a different position, while the tails of some are ready to chastise the troublesome flies. As a piece of scenery this picture is all that can be desired, and it is difficult to say whether the artist excels most as a student of nature, or in a knowledge of the technicalities of his magical art.

The quality of the pictures submitted for sale by Mr. George Davis marks his discriminating judgment, and we can, therefore, recommend our readers to go and see the gems his enterprise has brought together for moderate disposal.

(To be continued in our next.)

A YORKSHIRE COIN COLLECTOR.

ON a recent visit to Hull we were gratified by an introduction to Mr. James Sykes, of Lowgate, who kindly permitted an inspection of his extensive and valuable collection of Roman and other coins, for which he was awarded a bronze medal at the late Working Men's Exhibition held in that town.

The collection consists of a series of Roman Family Consular coins and denarii, all in a fine state, and many of a rare type. There is also a series of nearly 250 Roman first brass, all well patinated of ancient Greek coins, the number is fewer, but they are good and interesting. The rarest are those of Arsaces V. and Darius.

Of ancient British money Mr. Sykes has a large cabinet, in which is a coin found in a field near Brough, and which is engraved in "Hawkins' British Coins," (No. 14.) This series embraces examples of nearly all the Saxon monarchs. Of English kings since the Conquest the scarcest specimen in this collection is a silver penny of Stephen, in good condition, one of which was sold at the late Mr. Cuff's sale for £13.

Amongst the siege pieces are the Pontefract shillings, both octagon and diamond-shaped, of which money, in a newspaper issued in 1648, entitled "*The Kingdom's Faithful and Impartial Scout*," the following notice appears:—

"Monday, February 5, 1648.—Intelligence from Pontefract—The besieged have made two sallies forth, but were repulsed without any great losses to us. In the last they killed but one man of ours, and we took two of theirs prisoners, one of which had a parcel of silver in his pocket, somewhat square and octagon, on one side whereof was stamped a castle with 'P. O.' for Pontefract. On the other side was the crown, with 'C. R.' on each side of it."

There are a number of London and Hull tokens, and an exceedingly rare one of Kirkland, in Wiltshire; of which, according to Boyne, the only specimen known was in the Bodleian Library.

We may finally add, that should any of our readers visit Hull, they will be welcomed by Mr. Sykes to inspect his very excellent numismatic collection, and other antiquarian curiosities.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

(1.) The Agglestone, ante p. 111; Qy. Egges for Eccles: from ecclesia a church; in Welsh "Eglwys;" compare Egglestone in Durham county. It is in Studland parish: stud = pillar.

(2.) Inscription at "Loxbeare," Devon. p. 143. I read this, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. *Ailmar—fecit Dom.*" i.e. *Ailmar* made this to or for the Lord. The + prefixed is the Roman Catholic formula of "crossing;" the final y, I take to be a contraction of Dominus.

(3.) Chilver is a word not found in modern dictionaries: Johnson, Walker, Webster, Richardson; but it is a word in constant use. As pure Saxon it was spelled "cyfler," see Bosworth's Dictionary; and means female lamb, a young ewe. Auctioneers class a flock as consisting of rams, ewes, wethers and chilvers.

(4.) *Jael and Sisera*.—The Jews have a curious tradition that the brief intercourse between Jael wife of C-Heber the Kenite, and Sisera of Harosheth, the commander of Jabin King of Hazor's army, recorded in Judges iv. 18, was not without fruit.

It appears that one Rabbi Akiba, born about the commencement of the Christian era, and known as Karcha or "the bald," is considered as descended from this very singular union. Rabbi Akiba is a much venerated character, and mentioned in the Talmud.

This circumstance illustrates the well-known custom among nomadic races, of welcoming passing strangers to bed and board; it is amusingly described by modern travellers, who find themselves much perplexed, now and then, when a polite chieftain offers the pick from among twenty wives.

A. H.

October 11, 1871.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

ON the 27th September, at the National School Room, Colchester, the Rev. Henry Geary, M.A., incumbent of Christ Church, Herne Bay, and one of the six preachers of Canterbury Cathedral, delivered a lecture on recent discoveries in Palestine and Sinai, including the explorations of Jerusalem underground. Major Bishop (Deputy Mayor) presided, and there was a full and highly respectable audience.

The Chairman introduced the lecturer as follows:—The subject of this evening's lecture on the past and present condition of the "Holy City" and "Holy Land" is one of world-wide interest and instruction, especially interesting as unveiling in our day the hidden secrets and treasures which have lain buried for centuries, and still more important and instructive as confirming in so many instances the fidelity and accuracy of Scripture history. All praise and success therefore to the Exploration Society, and the able and zealous men who have under their auspices brought so many hidden things to light, and are still anxious to continue their labours if supported, as they well deserve to be, by public pecuniary assistance, for we know that objects and information of the deepest interest are still hidden under the *débris* of ages, waiting only the means by which they may be brought to the light of day.

The Lecturer said:—To many he had no doubt it would be a matter of surprise, as it had been to himself when first the work was brought under his notice, that there should be any necessity for exploring the sacred land of Palestine. Travellers had often visited there and hence it seemed extraordinary to say that exploration was still needed. It was therefore quite right that at the outset of his lecture he should endeavour to prove to them that such a work as the thorough exploration and mapping out of Palestine was a most necessary work if they would wish to understand the

Bible and hidden mysteries which at present were contained in it.

First of all he explained what was meant by the word "exploration," namely, the thorough and accurate discovery of all the geographical and topographical circumstances of the land, a full acquaintance with its present population and their connection with the ancient inhabitants, a complete knowledge also of the buildings within the country, of its manners and customs, and in short of all its varied outlines and details, whether as regarded the natural sciences or otherwise. They wanted to know what animals now lived there and what had before existed, and to dig down under ground so as to find all the treasures of sacred antiquity. Such a work was necessary to the thorough study of the Bible, and it was the work that had been commenced. It had pleased God in His providence to clothe a very considerable portion of His revelation in the form of a history of the country and its inhabitants in and amongst whom the life of His Son had been spent, and, certainly so far as the earlier portions of the sacred record was concerned, it consisted not of precepts, devotional psalms and hymns and prophecies as man might if left to his own ideas have thought likely, but of the stories of battles, campaigns, and similar occurrences. Hence the necessity for a clear and distinct knowledge of the places at which these several great events happened. Again, whenever there was allusion made, as there often was, to an animal or plant, such allusion was not made with a view to ornament the Word of God, or to please man's imagination or fancy, but because there was a certain teaching intended to be drawn from the characteristics of that animal or plant, and therefore to say that one did not know the name or peculiarities of that animal or plant, was to admit there existed a blot in their mind concerning God's revelation. And so likewise even the knowledge of the atmospheric conditions of the land might enable them to understand a good deal of the otherwise obscure meaning of the sacred volume. Of this he gave one or two examples. Perhaps, however, the most valuable result of their explorations in Palestine was, that they gave evidence continually of the truth of the sacred narrative.

The lecturer then pointed out the value of that portion of the Society's "Quarterly Statements," which to many doubtless would, unexplained, be considered dry reading, and which was little more than a list of names of places in the sacred country. They would all remember that they read in the Book of Joshua how he in carrying out a commandment of the Lord, given to Moses, assembled the people of Israel, after their release from bondage, in a valley between the two mountains, Ebal and Gerizim, and there read to them all the words of the law, and the blessings and curses according as they were written in the book of the law. To people who knew only of mountains in this country, that statement would appear something like a myth or a legend; a man's voice, they would say, could not be heard from the top of a mountain by a vast multitude of people beneath, but as to this portion of the Holy Scriptures convincing proof had been found. The truth was, that a certain place between the two mounts, Gerizim and Ebal, only a very narrow pass intervened, there was a natural semi-circular hollow, and from the natural position and circumstances of the place it was literally possible, as had been proved, for a man to stand on the mountain and the whole multitude beneath to hear him.

Next, the lecturer proceeded to give an account of the finding of the celebrated Moabite stone, and of the several "squeezes" which had been obtained of it, particularly those of Captain Warren, which were admirably perfect, and of M. Ganneau's translation of the inscription on it. About seven-tenths in all of the inscription had been preserved, whether the remainder would ever be brought together he could not say. Until they were, or till it became quite clear that it could not be done, all attempts at translation

must be premature, and could only lead to controversy and dispute. It was unquestionably, whatever its precise date, the very oldest Semitic lapidary record of importance yet discovered, and nearly the whole of the Greek alphabet is to be found upon it. A diagram of the stone was exhibited by the lecturer, who also stated that he had with him casts of all the pieces of the stone that remained perfect, if at the close of his lecture any person present liked to examine them. It seemed that such relics had been preserved by God's providence up to the present time. All would wonder how such an inscription still remained so perfect. It seemed that the Romans in their occupation of the land found the monument, and not caring for its monumental character, built it into one of their walls with the inscription inwards, and it there remained perfect until either through the work of man, or the work of the elements, the wall was destroyed, and the stone fell and disclosed the inscription found upon it. Did it not seem that it had been preserved by God in His providence until a time when its evidential character to the truth of the Bible, was so vast, great, and obvious? This then was a part of the work in which the Exploration Society was interested. It had hitherto been marvellously, and perhaps to some extent, under circumstances, unavoidably neglected. Travellers had been obliged by the danger and expense of deviating from the beaten tracks to follow each other over paths very well known, and of the east and west of Palestine, until within the last few years, they had known very little indeed, a fact which, considering that Palestine was so small, not larger than Yorkshire and Lancashire together, seemed marvellous.

The rev. gentleman then spoke at length of the work which the Society had been doing in Palestine, a brief account of which from the foundation of the Fund to December last has been published by the Society so cheaply as to place it easily within the reach of all classes. What now they wanted to do, he said, was to make eloquent and exhaustive inquiries as to the different tribes and races still inhabiting the land, and to find out what knowledge they possess of the ancient inhabitants. It was possible they might find traces of even the old Canaanitish tribes, of whom traditions, manners, and customs might have remained until the present time, which might throw valuable light upon passages of history. These inquiries, however, should be made at once: quickly. The Society also desired to know something of the arts of the ancient Jews, their manufactures, of their palaces, temples, and synagogues. Here the Lecturer remarked upon the many theories held by eminent authorities respecting the site of the Holy Sepulchre, and the grave of our Lord, questions which ought speedily to be solved, but which only excavations and the discovery of the ancient city walls could fully determine. Then, again, it was a matter of the greatest interest that they should know exactly the site of the Holy Temple, and discover the architecture of that building, and the exact means they had of carrying on their worship. Captain Warren had most carefully excavated, for four years, and, as accounts from him during that time had shown, he seemed happier in the work than he would have been above ground. Of the manner in which Captain Warren conducted his excavations, greatly resembling ordinary mining, and of his experiences whilst so employed, Mr. Geary read several most interesting passages. Notwithstanding the insufficiency of means for fully carrying out the work and the consequent necessarily imperfect results, much had been discovered, and they were now perfectly acquainted with the level of the Rock and the most sacred portion of the Temple. They learned that the Temple of Solomon must have been a huge erection, as long and as high as York Minster built on the top of a wall as high as some of their church steeples. They had also obtained a great amount of knowledge as to the admirable engineering skill of the ancient Jews. It seemed that those Jews had worked out the two great problems that at the present time occupied so

much attention sanitarily—the problems of water supply and the utilization of sewage. Jerusalem was in those ancient days admirably supplied with water, which the people brought down from the high countries, the aqueduct which supplied Jerusalem with water containing an amount of piping about forty miles long, they had also, instead of the canals in modern Jerusalem, a splendid main drain through the whole city and at its outfall were found traces of orchards and gardens showing not only that they carried out the sewage but also applied it to useful purposes.

The next subject dwelt upon and explained by the Lecturer was the discovery of "Robinson's Arch," "Wilson's Arch" (so named after their discoverers, Dr. Robinson and Captain Wilson), and the old wall of the ancient city Ophel, of all of which he gave archaeological descriptions. In concluding his lecture he said there was another work now going to be undertaken. There was starting forth an expedition most thoroughly and completely to survey the whole of the land of Palestine, and bring back as complete an ordnance map thereof as we have of England, if money came forth for the purpose. Incidentally, no doubt, they would find out much, and would be enabled to tell about the manners and customs of the people. It depended upon the amount of support the Society received from the liberality of Christian people whether there should be an half-and-half survey, or a complete and exhaustive work that should be of value to Biblical students for ages. There had been an independent Exploration Society started by the Americans, who had taken the smaller, but more difficult, part of the work, the eastern part of Jordan, and would survey that whilst the English Association carried out a survey of the western portion. It would be a very great shame indeed if America were to get the start of England and conclude her work whilst we stopped short for want of funds. The Society wanted something like £5000 annually to carry on the work. It had now only about half that sum promised and would want additional help. He hoped some gentleman would be found to act as local secretary to promote subscriptions, and that Colchester would not be found backward in promoting so interesting an antiquarian work as the exploration of Palestine.

The lecture was illustrated by maps, diagrams, and other means, and gave much satisfaction.

Major Bishop expressed pleasure at having heard the interesting and instructive lecture for which in the name of the meeting he thanked Mr. Geary. And he had no hesitation in saying that the old rule of Colchester with regard to liberality of subscriptions would still be maintained.

The Rev. J. G. Bingley proposed a vote of thanks to Major Bishop for presiding.

SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

[Secretaries of Archaeological and Antiquarian Societies throughout the Kingdom will confer a favour by forwarding to the Editor of this Journal all Notices and Reports of Meetings, and also their Periodical Publications.]

NORFOLK AND NORWICH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

WEDNESDAY, the 27th ultimo, was hardly such a day as would tempt ladies and gentlemen to engage on a railway journey, to be followed by a drive of from eighteen to twenty miles, under the guise of a day's pleasure. It was, however, the day appointed for the autumn excursion of the above Archaeological Society, and as all arrangements had been made the "outing" could not be deferred. In rain, which fell persistently and apparently over the whole country—much to the advantage of the root crops—a small, and as

was jocosely said, a "very select" party of barely a dozen ladies and gentleman met at the appointed rendezvous, the Dunham Station of the Great Eastern Railway. The prognostications of the more sanguine members of the party, the quotation of the old saws about "rain before seven, fine before eleven," were alike fated to be proved valueless in this case; but what mattered a little rain—or for the matter of that a great deal, such as fell to the share of the party before the day had ended—when the object was "the pursuit of knowledge." The party had come out for a day's inspection of old churches, and they were not to be deprived of their enjoyment. Accordingly a start was made, Mr. Carthew acting as "guide, interpreter, and friend."

GREAT DUNHAM CHURCH.

At this, the first halting place, the rector, the Rev. W. F. Jex-Blake, received the party. The venerable old church—which dates from the Early Norman, even if not somewhat more distant date—was enlivened by the floral decorations which had been prepared for the Harvest Thanksgiving service held on Tuesday. The interior of this building is well worthy the attention of students, while on its exterior there are not less noteworthy features. The tower is a most beautifully proportioned square fabric, massive to the extreme of grandeur, but also to the extreme of simplicity. Its double belfry windows, splayed both ways, and with two splayed sound holes above each, lead to the conclusion that its history may date from a period to which only one or two other churches in the county can be assigned. The supporting arches in the interior, which also separate the nave from the chancel, are not less massive and simple. These and some very curious arcade work on either side of the interior of the nave—the only example in the county—are said to be Early Norman. A church existed here in the time of Edward the Confessor, and portions of this fabric are, it is supposed, to be found in the present building. It is a noteworthy fact that Roman tiles, such as are to be seen *in situ* at Caister Camp, are built into the walls at the angles of the tower. At the west end is a singular triangular doorway of Norman erection, having chequered moulding, which was filled in in the time of Henry VIII., as proved by the royal arms carved over the point. A small Early English window exists on the north side of the nave, and the south doorway is also Early English. The south porch is in the Perpendicular style of architecture. The chancel is comparatively modern, but in an excavation made many years ago the foundations of an old semi-circular apse were discovered. Mr. Carthew stated that ornamentation similar to that found on the moulding in this church was also found in the church of the Venerable Bede, at Jarrow, and this would appear to strengthen the supposition that the church of Great Dunham was also of very great age. At some very distant date another church stood on what is now the rectory croquet ground, and from the foundations there have been recovered an old altar slab and other carved stonework, which are yet to be seen in the rectory grounds.

BEESTON ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

THIS was the next station, and a noble old church it was found to be. It is particularly rich in carved work, in the Decorated style. Here the student may find endless beautiful examples of the work which our forefathers thought not out of place on every seat which would bear ornamentation. The carving is throughout of the most beautiful character, but it fittingly reaches its highest pitch in the screens, which divide the chancel and each of the two aisle chapels from the main part of the fabric. The carving in these screens is worthy of the appellation of "exquisite," and photographs of it would be appreciated by all students of architecture.

Mr. Carthew read the following notes which he had made:—

"This is a church in the Decorated, or fourteenth century style almost throughout, except the clerestory and upper stage

of the tower, added in the fifteenth century. It consists of nave, two side aisles, which are continued so as to flank the tower on each side, and include it in the church. There has been a chapel on the south side of the chancel—now demolished—the doorway to which, blocked up, is to be seen by the side of the priests' entrance. The east window of five lights is a specimen of Decorated, as are also the two windows on the north and one on the south sides of the chancel. The upper portion of the screen contains some excellent tracery of the fifteenth century, rivaling that at Litcham. The panels beneath have had figures upon them, but they are too much defaced to be identified. The southernmost figure seems to be an archer—either St. Clement or St. Nicholas. But it is to the carved spandrels over these panels to which I wish to draw your attention, as they are remarkable. One on the north side of the screen appears to represent St. George slaying the dragon, and issuing from a cave behind appear two young dragons. Another seems to be St. Michael, who is smiting a many-headed monster. The third contains a ploughshare and tun, said to be rebus for Beeston. The northern part of the screen is concealed by the pulpit and desk. At the east end of each aisle is a chantry chapel—the north, Our Lady's; the south, St. John's—with its parclose screen, that on the north side being particularly elaborate. Each chapel has a piscina. The nave piers are four, clustered with filleted bands in the interstices. The aisle window tracery is particularly good. The roof is a good specimen, the wall pieces and hammer beams terminated by carved figures, those in the nave horizontal, and those in the aisle sitting. On one of the bosses in the north aisle, near the entrance, is painted a ploughshare, and over the arch there was in Blomefield's time this sentence painted:—

"This share doth show this Manor fine,
A share it is, not money mine;
This many hundred years, you understand,
A share to be a fine for taking up of land,
Lord Barnwell—see thou keep it."

Mr. Carthew was able to explain this particular inscription he having for a long period held the stewardship of the Manor of Mileham. He said he had found that the customary "fine" for taking up a copyhold estate was a ploughshare. This parish of Beeston formed part of the Manor of Mileham, and when, in 1604, the Manor passed from the hands of the Earls of Arundel into the Barnwell family (as afterwards explained by him in his paper on Mileham Castle), the new proprietor wanted to assert more than his right and to make the fine arbitrary instead of certain. There are a great many entries in the Manor books about the custom, and ultimately the fine of a ploughshare was commuted for the sum of 2s. Mr. Carthew also called attention to the corbels on the dripstone of the north door, which represent an earl and countess, and which he supposed to be a compliment to the Earl and Countess of Arundel of that day. He also remarked on an old Latin inscription in the chancel relative to a rector named John Forbye, who entered on the living in 1594. He appears to have been a very quaint, yet observing man—quite a character, in fact. In 1598 he re-copied the register-book, which, moreover, contains many curious entries in his handwriting, entitled "*Memorabilia sive annalia ecclesie atque parochie de Beeston*." It was strange that the suggestion was not made by any member that a transcript of these "annals of a country parish," which relate to everything coming under the Rector's notice, would be of great interest to many students of history, and would be a work worthy of the society. As, moreover, this same John Forbye re-copied the Attleborough register when he entered on that living, and could hardly have left his quaintness of character behind him at Beeston, an examination of that register would probably make these "annals" doubly interesting, not only to county archæologists, but to those who are gradually reconstructing the narrative of English history from any old records which have escaped

destruction. The "Butt-land," adjoining the churchyard, and parallel to the highway, carries the mind back to the day when every Englishman was by law compelled to qualify himself to fight for his country; and at the same time the old plot of land shows how close the enemy must have come in those days before the shafts a yard in length could be propelled with the force necessary to their required effect. A Butt-land now-a-days is required to be of vastly increased length, but then it is not yet required, as of old, to be provided in every parish. Another generation may see a return to this old practice.

MILEHAM CHURCH.

This fabric sadly needs the immediate attention of the Archdeacon. The heavy rain which fell on the roofs was not carried away by the modern iron piping, but in several places was pouring down the exterior walls, while the wall which separates the nave from the south aisle is very much out of the perpendicular. There are several features of interest about the church, which is also a 14th century erection, with two aisles and celestery of Perpendicular work. The tower stands at the north-west of the north aisle, from which it projects and forms a porch in a very picturesque manner. The chancel door is of Transitional Norman work. The altar window is a 16th century insertion, as is also a square one in the north wall, and the double sedilia in the south. There are also Decorated windows in the chancel, and of this style is the priests' door, now blocked up. There is some old painted glass in the west window, which was discovered a few years ago in a singular manner. The rector, Mr. Barnwell, one day noticed that light of an unusual hue was shining through a coat of whitewash, which defaced the west window. He thereupon caused the coat of wash to be removed and brought to light some very fine 14th century glass, representing St. John the Baptist, with Catherine on his right, and St. Margaret on his left. The border tracery of alternate leaves and flowers, with a beautiful running pattern of oak leaves is of the original design. In the lower part of the window is stained glass removed from the windows in the chancel. In this last yet remains a very singular fragment—two figures, a monk and a nun, with two pack horses before them and the word "broun" beneath. The east window has also a figure, which the title describes as St. Agatha, though the attributes do not correspond. A finely-preserved stone coffin is in the chancel, and a pretty good brass—date 1526—in the south aisle. A chapel formerly existed in each of the aisles. Remains of the rood-loft stair case, in capital preservation, are to be seen. The old oak door leading to the tower-porch, with its curious ironwork, both of the 15th century, are very remarkable. The font is of the 15th or 16th century, and there is a poor-box which bears the date, 1639. In the churchyard is the ruin of a cross on an altar tomb, and at no great distance, forming part of the now deserted old Rectory, is a shaft of Elizabethan chimneys.

MILEHAM CASTLE.

The party having reached the summit of the ruins of the keep, Mr. Carthew read the following brief paper, which he had prepared in order that the members present might the better realise the scene before them:—

"Here is not much to be seen, but what there is is calculated to invite the attention of the inquirer into the early history of this island and its inhabitants. This is one of those pre-historic mounds with horse-shoe works which abound in this and the adjoining counties. By what race of men, and at what era raised, we have nothing but theory to guide us. I believe it may be safely said that they are earlier than the Roman occupation of the island, because the Romans have in some instances taken possession of them, as may be seen by the rectangular additions made to them. It is well known that the Roman encampments were rectangular, the British, circular. Now, in this case we have

not only a circular mound, protected by horse-shoe earthworks, but there are traces of straight embankments as well. We may, therefore, draw the conclusion that the Romans, finding these Celtic works convenient for their purposes—possibly to keep up their communications, for there are traces of their occupation at Castleacre on one side, and at Elmham on the other—occupied, and strengthened them by the addition of embankments in their own mode of construction, which are still to be traced on the other side of the road to the north and to the east. Not far south of this mound there was not many years since a line of earthwork, a vallum and fosse, laid down on the ordnance map as “The Devil’s Dyke,” but described in old records as “quoddam magnum et antiquum fossatum vocatum Laundicke,” from which the hundred derived its name. I take it that these works must have had some connection with each other. A few years ago there was a find of bronze celts in Longham, not far from the Dyke. The fact of Roman occupation is evidence that this mound and banks were not constructed by the Saxons; indeed, the Saxons do not appear to have been raisers of this sort of work, although they doubtless made use of them for the purposes of defence by erecting stockades of timber. Neither are they supposed to have constructed any buildings of stone before the intercourse of the Normans with the island in the time of the Conqueror. The Normans were great castle builders, and after the Conquest, when the estates of the dispossessed Saxon nobility were given by the Conqueror to his followers, they generally availed themselves of these mounds, and erected castles upon them. These castles were of two types. They were either strong square keeps like those of Norwich and Rising, or a shell encircling the top of the mound, as at Castleacre. At the time of the Conquest this and the adjoining parishes were the possessions of Archbishop Stigand (who was also Bishop of Elmham) and were his private estate. On his disgrace they were seized by the Conqueror, and at the time of the Domesday survey were in the King’s own hands, under the charge of William de Noiers or Nowers. King Henry I. granted them to Alan, son of Flaald. I cannot tell you the exact date, but it was about 1100, and either he or William Fitz Alan, his son, who probably raised this castle for the purpose of protecting his newly-acquired territory and over-awing the Saxon population. Blomefield speaks of it as being of an oval form, but he means the entire area, “containing about twelve or thirteen acres, surrounded by two deep ditches or trenches, and in the south part was the keep, with another ditch, where are ruins of walls that crossed the ditch, and the north part was the barbican.” The entrance, he says, was on the west side. From a small ground-plan and elevation in the *Gentleman’s Magazine*, for June, 1819, it appears that the form of the keep was square. It must have been dismantled at a very early period, for there is no mention of a castle or its possessors in the records relating to the manor. It does not seem ever to have become the residence of the Fitz Alans, for after John Fitz Alan married the heiress of Albini, *temp.* Henry III., they had the castle of Arundel, in Sussex. Mileham continued in the Fitz Alan family until 1559, when the then Earl of Arundel sold it to Sir Thomas Gresham, after whose death it was sold to Sir Thomas Cecil, and by his son it was exchanged with the Barnwells for estates in Northamptonshire, and in the Barnwell family Mileham remains at this day, but in a distinct branch from the manor.

During the ownership of the Fitz Alans their territorial possessions were several times forfeited to the Crown by the attainder of the Earls and granted to others, but in the course of time restored. In none of these grants is there any mention of a castle. The banks and ditches are described as the Hall yards. Mary, widow of William, Baron Fitz Alan, who died in 1215, had Mileham in dower, and I find her called Mary de Melham, which looks as if she resided here. The lordship of the Hundred of Launditch ac-

companied this manor until the sale to Gresham, when it was excepted.

The road from Norwich to Lynn is cut through the northern portion of the embankment, and the land on the other side now belongs to the Coke family, but is copyhold of the manor. The farm-house opposite is shown as the birth-place of Sir Edward Coke, but the manor-house of the Cokes was in the wood beyond, called Burghwood, where the moat is still to be seen.

LITCHAM CHURCH.

This church is better known than some others which were visited by the company. The fine old screen—date about 1430—was the great attraction. Here, much to the disgust of lovers of such old work, it was found that an attempt at restoration had been made. It is to be hoped that the “artist” has given over in despair—the very fact of putting on the hands of an angel the piece of modern millinery known as “gauntlets” may have led to the discovery that something more was required besides being able to lay on the gilt. This screen has doors—an almost solitary instance. The pulpit and oak chest, alike of the 15th century, are good. On the first pillar to the west of the south aisle is to be seen the remains of an old Norman church, which must have occupied the same position as the present fabric, and forming part of the pavement of the aisle is an old Norman pillar sun-dial. The side aisle arches and the chancel arch of this church dove-tail together in a very curious, but not inelegant, manner. In the churchyard is an old tombstone, bearing the date 1582.

The company had by this time somewhat increased, and lunched together at the Bull Inn. The party included the Revs. C. R. Manning, Wright, Legge, Jones, and Bloom, Messrs. R. Fitch, F.S.A., G. Carthew, F.S.A., and G. Copeman, Dr. Bensly, Mrs. Bensly, Mrs. R. Bensly, &c.

EAST LEXHAM CHURCH.

The party had barely started from Litcham and while passing through the beautiful wooded estate of the Rev. W. A. W. Keppel, than the rain came down in torrents. Happily, however, the storm soon abated and the remainder of the day was fine. The round tower of East Lexham, covered with ivy, suggested its probable Saxon age by its double-played windows, &c. Portions of the roof-loft staircase were also seen in this church, and a piscina of a peculiar design. One of the old carved stalls has been utilized as a communion chair, but it has somewhat needlessly added to it the seat of a second stall to form a resting place for the head of the sitter. One of those peculiar windows on the north side, the purpose of which is a matter of dispute, is found here.

NEWTON CHURCH.

Burrow Hills were passed with only a hasty survey, and when the party reached Newton, the Rev. J. H. Bloom was present to welcome them. This old church has, it is supposed, some genuine Saxon work. Records prove that a church existed here in the time of the Confessor, and this is supposed to contain portions of that building. The old tower is particularly noteworthy. This church is not unlike that of Great Dunham, but is far more dilapidated. Here is another of the low windows just alluded to. The communion table is evidently very old, and has carving on both sides as though it had been used before Laud issued his decree that all communion tables should be placed in the position which the altar occupies in Roman Catholic churches. Mr. Bloom showed plans of the intended restoration of the church—a work which is needed as greatly as in any parish in the county.

SPORLE CHURCH.

This was the last place on the programme and not the least interesting. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, has

an Early English chancel with two arches on the north side now blocked up, which appear to have communicated with a Lady Chapel. At each corner of the east end is a Norman shaft with cushions capital, and the Rev. T. Jones, the rector, has found the foundations of other Norman work. He believes that a blank wall between two of the arches of the nave is a portion of the Norman tower. The present nave and aisles are Decorated, as is also the tower—the west doorway being a remarkably beautiful specimen of the style, as is also a niche above it. Between two of the Early Perpendicular windows inserted in the south aisle wall is a curious series of frescoes of 25 tableaux, representing the legend of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Drawings of these tableaux have just been published by the Society in its Journal. The rector evidently appreciates the value of the several features of interest in his church, which has been admirably restored, and thus made one of the most noteworthy churches in the county. A very brief stay at the rectory, where Nelson's father resided to within three weeks of the birth of the great naval hero, an inspection of a good collection, including a singular celt made of iron pyrites, and the party returned to the station gratified with a pleasurable outing, and quite willing to forget that the day had promised to be remembered only as the autumn excursion of the Society which was a failure.

YORKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual excursion of the members took place on 30th August, from Leeds, to various objects of interest in the neighbourhood. Nearly two hundred associates took part in the proceedings, which were of a very interesting and attractive character. At eleven o'clock the mayor (Mr. John Barran), attended by Alderman Kelsall and Shepherd, and other gentlemen in Leeds, arrived in the Victoria Hall, and officially welcomed the Association. Colonel Brooke, of Huddersfield, on behalf of the Association, acknowledged the cordial welcome of his worship, and said that one great object of their visits to commercial and manufacturing towns was to show that some of the money that was made there was well expended in the preservation and care of the monuments of the past.

Mr. Fairless Barber, F.S.A., of Brighouse, then read a "Few Notes on Leeds Old Bridge." He said that the fabric now being demolished consisted of three distinct bridges, placed together side by side. The middle one was the old bridge proper; the one on the right hand as they crossed from Briggate was an addition, made in 1730, and that on the left hand side was a later addition, made in 1760. The two latter were plain stone bridges, built of squared ashlar, presenting no special features; but the first or central bridge, which the other two had hidden and preserved for over a century, deserved more than a passing mention. It was, there can be no doubt, the same structure that existed in Thoresby's time, and which he described as "strong and robust, made of large squared stones; and if, in the number of its pillars and arches, it be equalled by many, and outdone by some, 'tis, however, in one respect, peerless. That the memorable cloth market, the very life of these parts of England, was kept upon this bridge, the cloths being laid upon the battlements of the bridge, and upon benches below, every Tuesday and Saturday morning till 14th June, 1648, when it was, for greater convenience, removed into Broad Street, where it now remains." The under side of the bridge was but some 9 feet or 10 feet wide, and the roadway above must have been less than this width, by the space which the battlements occupied. Of the five arches, the first, nearest Briggate, spanned the tailgoit of the mill; and the next was, and for some time past has been, dry, and the remaining three span the river. The first, or goit arch, is of more ancient construction than the others, and Dr. Whitaker

tells us that when the chapel adjoining it was pulled down, to make way for the additions of 1760, the foundation-stones appeared so incorporated with those of the bridge itself that both must have been built at the same time. The chapel, which was dedicated to Our Lady, was mentioned in a deed dated as early as 1372, but as no details had been preserved to indicate the period to which the remains pulled down in 1760 ought to be referred, it could not be stated with certainty how old this arch is. Its construction was quite mediæval in character, though the arch was not pointed. From either pier rose five bold chamfered ribs of stone, with intervals of about a foot each between them, and these bore an arch of two orders, each of which was also chamfered. The remaining four arches of the bridge were also of two orders, with chamfered edges, but having no supporting ribs. He concluded by expressing the hope that the mayor and corporation of Leeds would, while there was yet time, cause plans, elevations, and sections, to be taken of the piers and arches of the three separate bridges, which, but yesterday, formed Leeds Old Bridge.

The party then started, in a number of omnibuses and private conveyances, to Adel. On the way they passed the Skyrack Oak, which had given its name to the wapentake of the district.

Arrived at Adel Church, Mr. Fairless Barber described a number of crosses dug up from under the church, and expressed his opinion that they were early Christian headstones. There could be no doubt whatever that these headstones were a very important branch of what was called the iconography of the cross. How early these headstones were carved was a matter of theory, but it must have been within the seventh, ninth, or eleventh centuries. They pointed to a Christian settlement at Adel, or thereabouts, at a very remote period, probably about the time when the English were converted to Christianity by the Romans.

The Rev. George Leuthwaite, the son of a former rector of the parish, next described the pretty little church of Adel in an address of a very attractive and popular character. He contended that the church was erected early in the twelfth century by King Stephen, as a memorial of his mother, and then proceeded to comment on the deeply-recessed arch of the porch, explaining the figures and the corbels as so many symbolical illustrations of religious feeling and fervour. They might be held to represent the truth of Gospel history. The curiously-carved chancel arch was very rich in illustrations of Scripture history and Scriptural teachings, and upon these the reverend gentleman expatiated at some length, and with great perspicuity, having evidently made himself complete master of the subject. The reverend gentleman's explanations of the carvings, illustrative of the two sacraments and of various memorable incidents in Scriptural history, were of a deeply interesting character; and it was only to be regretted that time would not permit of the subject being more thoroughly exhausted.—A number of old stone coffins, or cists, in the churchyard, also attracted the attention of the visitors.

A sharp drive of half an hour brought the excursionists to Kirkstall Abbey, and here, after luncheon had been served by Mr. Powolny, of Leeds, Mr. Sharpe, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., &c., gave the *savants* a very interesting account of the rise and progress of the Cistercian Order of Monks, especially in respect of their contributions to the architectural adornment of the various countries of Europe. In the twelfth century, three monks, formerly belonging to the Order of St. Benedict, abandoned that order, being disgusted with the excesses of the brethren, and went out into the world to found a new and more austere and rigid order—that of the Cistercians. Their rules were rigid in the extreme. They observed silence to each other, except during the hour of recreation or relaxation, went to prayers every four hours, and, in fact, lived a life of great hardship. They confined themselves within the limits of their own monasteries. They cultivated the lands about their abbeys, but none but the hospitaller and the

principal were allowed to speak to visitors. They proscribed a great many principles and customs which then prevailed in churches; they prohibited the painting of saints, the working in carving or in sculpture, and, in fact, everything that tended to extravagance or excessive ornamentation. They permitted no sculptured representation of the human figure in their windows or on their walls, or in their carved work, all their churches being dedicated to the Virgin Mary. All their abbeys were in the form of a Latin cross. As these monks grew wealthy, they departed from their original purity and chastity of design, built large and handsome halls, numerous chapels in connection with the church, enlarged the choirs, and otherwise enlarged the limits of their original ideas. Mr. Sharpe next proceeded to show how all the monasteries up to a certain period were more or less copies of the original monastery in the south of Europe, and he then went on to illustrate how excellently, in both a material and sanitary point of view, these abbeys had been constructed. To the labours of the monks the world owed a great deal, both with respect to classical and religious literature, for these would have been lost to the moderns had it not been by the multiplication of transcripts from the originals, these transcripts being made by hundreds and thousands within the limits of the respective scriptoriums. In conclusion, Mr. Sharpe gave an interesting and illustrative history of the domestic and daily habits of these recluses, and afterwards proceeded to point out the most interesting features of Kirkstall Abbey, built by Henri de Lacy between 1152 and 1165, after the original monastery had been removed from Barnoldswick in Craven.

The party having returned to Leeds and inspected St. John's Church, which is considered almost unique as a specimen of a seventeenth century church, then dispersed, having spent a most enjoyable and profitable day.

LIVERPOOL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

A MEETING of this society was held on the 5th ultimo in the small lecture-room of the Free Library, William Brown Street, and was very numerously attended. Mr. Haywood Chapman presided.

Mr. H. Eckroyd Smith read the paper of the evening, which, under the unassuming title of "Numismatic Waifs and Strays," part I., gave a description of the various coins and tokens known to have been discovered in this neighbourhood during the earlier portion of the past decade. Considering the complete historic waste which the country lying westward of Chester, Warrington, and Preston proves to the student of our national records, it is matter of agreeable surprise and congratulation to find Mr. Smith's memoir replete with interest, as the following excerpts will show.

Taking the Roman-British period, examples of the denarius, or silver penny, of Hadrian and Caracalla, with bronze pieces of Nero, Claudius, Carausius, &c., have been found upon the Meols beach; whilst a large brass of Antoninus Pius, reverse "Britannia," was discovered within the bounds of the borough, in Parliament Fields. Small *trouvaillies* of the lesser brass have occurred at Otterspool and Neston, and a silver and copper piece of this period have, for the first time, been found so far west as Formby. Turning to the Anglo-Saxon era, its first, or Pagan, division is represented by two sceattas small silver pieces, forming a connecting link between the Roman and the Saxon silver pennies, the examples in question proving additionally valuable from being the only recorded ones from the kingdom of Mercia, to which they not improbably belong. Of the later Danish King, Cnut, a penny struck at Winchester is one of the best examples of its class—fresh and sharp as if produced but yesterday; with the last named, it occurred upon the Meols beach. Of the mediæval period we find silver pennies of Henry II. and III., Edward I. and II., a portion of these having been officially halved and quartered for small

change in the dearth of round half-pence and farthings. Of later English coins, a fine groat of Philip and Mary—but, being struck shortly after their marriage, only bears the bust of the Queen—is worthy of mention, from its unusually fresh condition. The tokens of the seventeenth century, a class always possessing topographical interest, comprise a penny of "Thomas Knight of Carnarvon," and dated 1667; by the display of a roll of tobacco, he may be presumed to have cultivated its trade or manufacture. This token does not appear in Mr. Boyne's work upon this class of pieces, but a second local example is therein described among the seven types then known of Liverpool issue. It has Liverpool Castle in the field of the obverse, and the inscription, "Charles Christian, grocer, in Liverpool, his penny, 1669," constitutes the circumscription of both sides of the piece. The issuer was in all probability an ancestor of Mr. Philip Christian, the eminent local potter, after whom Christian Street, where he resided, was named.

There were exhibited by Mr. R. Roberts—A gold 20-lire piece of Pius IX.; a silver medal, to commemorate the marriage of Charles I. and Henrietta; and a silver medal, to commemorate the birth of Charles II.

By Mr. Gustav H. Ahlborn—A silver coin of Siam, a curious abbey piece, and a metal medal of Augustus, Duke of Brunswick.

By Mr. C. H. Shackleton—A bronze jubilee medal of George III., 1810.

By Mr. Edward Bowker—A very curious copper medal, issued about 1550; obverse, head of a cardinal (a man of wisdom), reversible to the head of a fool (a man of folly); on the reverse a head of the Pope (a man of holiness), and reversible to the head of the Devil (symbolical of wickedness).

After votes of thanks to Mr. H. Eckroyd Smith for his very excellent paper, and to the donors and members who furnished exhibitions for the evening were passed, the meeting terminated.

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY.

A meeting of this Society will be held on Tuesday, November 7, at 8.30, at 9, Conduit Street, Bond Street, when the following paper will be read—"On the Religious Belief of the Assyrians," by H. Fox Talbot, Esq., D.C.L., F.R.S., F.R.S.L., &c.

BREECH-LOADING ORDNANCE OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

A MOST interesting consignment has recently arrived at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. It consisted of three bronze guns, manufactured evidently at an exceedingly early date, although in a most perfect state of preservation as regarded the various parts, and which were forwarded from Portsmouth by Admiral Milne, to whom they had been sent in transit from Rhodes by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul. We understand that a considerable amount of correspondence has taken place with reference to these and some other guns of a like nature, which were accidentally discovered by a diver at the bottom of the sea near Rhodes, and were at the time being sold for the sake of the metal which was contained in them, with a view of melting them down. Fortunately, however, this was arrested in time.

These curious specimens of warlike constructive art are supposed to belong to a period anterior even to the date of the battle of Crecy, when guns are said to have been first used. But the great interest which attaches to them is contained in the fact that two of the number are breech-loading pieces of ordnance. These are about five feet in length, and would contain a ball from four to five pounds weight. At the breech end is a chamber, sufficiently wide and deep to contain a large vent-piece, which can be lifted in and out by

means of a handle. This vent-piece is not solid as in the Armstrong gun, but has a space hollowed out within it evidently intended to hold the cartridge. Whether the ball formed part of the cartridge with the powder, or was rammed in afterwards at the muzzle, cannot be ascertained, but as the calibre of the barrel is greater than that of the chamber, it would appear that the latter surmise is correct. A plug passing through the breech of the gun and through the solid end of the vent-piece kept the latter in its place when the charge was fired, but there is an orifice in the cascable of each of the guns, which may have contained a breech screw; but the material is so much eaten away that it would not be possible to determine whether there had been a thread upon the orifices or not. The vent-hole is at the side of the vent-piece handle, and so contrived as to be exactly upright when the plug is in its place. On the trunnion piece of one of the guns is the figure of a lion with wings. In a similar position on the other is a human figure apparently holding a book. But the carving is so nearly obliterated that it is difficult to distinguish whether these images are human or otherwise. Such was the breech-loader of probably the fourteenth or fifteenth century. Perhaps one of these days we shall be digging up the portable field telegraph which was used by Pharaoh in keeping up a communication with his base of operations when pursuing the Israelites! The third gun is an ordinary-looking weapon, somewhat similar in shape to those which were used in the last century. It has a bore of $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches, measures about 9 feet in length, and is also of bronze, but does not bear the same stamp of antiquity as the rest.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor will be glad to receive Correspondence on Archaeological matters, and information of discoveries of antiquities, accompanied with drawings of objects, when of sufficient interest, for illustration.]

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

DEAR SIR.—In my collection is a curiously engraved medal in silver. Frontispiece, a figure of an old man with lantern in right hand, a candle in left (or staff), with motto around, "Lantern and a whole candell light."

Query. Can any of your readers give an account with date of execution, and where I could see another for comparison?

I am yours truly,

Harrogate, Sept., 27, 1871.

F. BAINBRIDGE.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR.—In reply to your correspondent, "J. H. D.," I find in the alphabetical list of engravers the name of J. L. Roulet, vide "Sculpturæ Historico-Technica, or the History and Art of Engraving." This work contains date of birth and death of most of the celebrated engravers. Date of fourth edition, MDCCCLXX, this work being in my possession.

Yours truly,

Harrogate, Sept., 27, 1871.

F. BAINBRIDGE.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

John Louis Roulet, the eminent French engraver, was born at Arles, in 1645, and died in Paris, 1669. J. H. D. will find the following works, although far from perfect, very useful. "Bryan's Dictionary of Painters and Engravers, edited by Stanley." Bohn, 1865. "Otley's Dictionary of Recent and Living Painters and Engravers." Bohn, 1866.

Sept. 27, 1871.

GEORGE M. TRAHERNE.

ANCIENT FEASTING.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

DEAR SIR.—The following account of ancient feasting, which I copy from an old MS. lately in my possession, may be of interest to some of your readers.

"When George Nevil, brother to the Great Earl of Warwick, was installed Archbishop of York, in 1470, he made a sumptuous and gluttonous repast for the nobility, gentry, and clergy; at which the Earl of Warwick acted as steward; the Earl of Bedford, treasurer; Lord Hastings, comptroller, and many noble officers as servants.

"The labour of preparing the feast was performed by 1000 cooks, 62 kitcheners, and 500 scullions. By a record in the Tower, of which the following is a transcript, the provisions were neither few nor scarce: they consisted of 300 quarters of wheat, 300 tuns of ale, 100 tuns of wine, and one pipe of spiced wine; 80 fat oxen, 6 wild bulls, 300 pigs, 1000 wethers; 300 hogs, 300 calves, 3000 geese, 3000 capons, 100 peacocks, 2000 cranes, 2000 chickens, 4000 pigeons, 204 bitterns, 4000 ducks, 400 herons, 200 pheasants, 500 partridges, 4000 woodcocks, 400 plovers, 100 carlows, 100 quails, 1000 egrets, 4000 bucks, does, and roebucks, 200 kids, 4000 rabbits, 155 hot venison pasties, 4000 cold venison pasties, 300 pike, 360 bream, 2 seals, 4 porpoises, 1000 dishes of jelly, 2000 hot custards, 4000 cold custards, and 4000 tarts."

West Mount, Derby,
Oct. 6, 1871.

H. R. GARBUTT.

ANCIENT LONDON.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

In the year 1200, after the great Deluge, Brutus came into this island with a view to build a city. We are told (see "The Chron. of Kings of Brit.," p. 30) that he went along the coast in search of a proper situation till he came to the Thames, and, having found one on this river, he built a city and called it *Troia Newydd* (New Troy), a name it long retained, but which was afterwards corrupted into *Troymorant*, and afterwards changed into *Caer-Ludd* (Lud's Town) by Ludd the son of Beli the Great, and brother of the Caswallon (Cassilelan) who fought with Julius Caesar. For this Ludd, when he became king, fortified it strongly by various contrivances, and annexed lands to it, but the change of the name and the abolishing that of Troy, caused a disagreement between him and his brother Niniaw. At last it was called London by the Saxons. When Brutus had finished the building of the city, and had fortified it with walls and towers, and dedicated it, he made laws to be observed by its inhabitants for the preservation of peace, and gave it prerogative and privilege. About this time Eli was the priest in Judea, and the ark of the covenant was in the possession of the Philistines. In Troy, a son of Hector, who had expelled Antenor and his family, was king; and, in Italy, Silvius, the son of Ascanius, and grandson of Æneas, and the uncle of Brutus, reigned the third king after Latimus. Brutus had by his wife, Inogen, three sons, viz., Locrinus, Camber, and Albanactus, and died in the twenty-fourth year after his arrival in the island.

W. WINTER.

Waltham Abbey.

THE National Portrait Gallery, South Kensington, was re-opened on the 2nd instant. During the vacation the pictures in this gallery have been re-arranged, and a great improvement has been effected. A few interesting additions are now exhibited to the public.

MR. G. G. SCOTT'S works in the Horse-Shoe Cloisters, Windsor Castle, are now complete. A new library is to be erected on the site of the old one, with a turret—the whole in brick.

THE OLD MARKET HOUSE, SHREWSBURY.

THE completion of the repairs of a portion of the old Market House (or rather Market Hall, as it has been called in modern times) in this town, and its adaptation to the purpose of a Borough Police Court or Town Hall, may be considered a fitting opportunity of calling to mind a few incidents connected with the history of the present venerable building and its predecessor.

There can be little doubt that the site of this building has been the site of the market so long as a public market has existed in Shrewsbury, and that it is the spot where the Duke of Buckingham suffered death after his betrayal by his former retainer, Ralph Banastre of Lacon, near Wem, in 1483. That event is recorded to have taken place in the "Market Place"—by which appellation what is now called "The Square" was known, until in comparatively modern times the term "Market Square" was adopted. Even this modern appellation, which included not only the Market "Place" proper, but also the parts on the east and south of the Market House, properly called "Corn-market," and in former days "Corn Chepyng," has been altered to "The Square." This is to be regretted, not only on account of the inappropriateness of the title, which has no relation to the form of the ground, but also because an ancient characteristic name will be lost to all except the students of history. We learn from authentic sources that a building, or rather buildings, for there were two, stood on the site of the present Market House previous to its erection. These buildings, which were of timber, are the earliest of which there is any record. We have the following account of their erection:—

"This year, 1567, Maister John Dawes of Shrobury, and alderman of the sayde towne, began and buylded two fayre houses in the corne market there, for the saffe placinge of corne in wether, so that the owners thereof may stand saffe and dry, the which buildings was at his owne coste and charge; which place servyth for the inhabitants, and also strangers to walk in, and the loftes above for sondry profitable purposes."

It is also recorded that in 1571 Mr. Humphrey Onslowe, then bailiff, "added three others for the same purpose." This Humphrey Onslowe was the uncle of Richard Onslow, Esq., Speaker of the House of Commons in the 8th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a member of the family located at Onslow, near this town. In the year 1595 these buildings, which probably were not very sightly, were removed, and the present building, of which it is truly said that it is "one of the most spacious and magnificent structures of its kind in the kingdom," was erected chiefly at the expense of the Corporation. One very remarkable fact in connection therewith is the short time occupied in the building of it. A stone tablet over the northern arch bears the following inscription in quaint characters:—

THE XV DAY OF IVNE WAS THIS
BYVLDING BE GONN WILLIAM IONES
AND THOMAS CHARLTON GENTS
THEN BAYLIFFES AND WAS ERECTED
AND COVERED IN THEIR TIME 1595.

It seems almost incredible that a building of such magnitude, so substantial, and, at the same time, so ornamental, could have been erected in so short a period; but so it is recorded, and we are not aware that the fact has ever been questioned. The building is all of wrought free-stone, in the fantastic style of the sixteenth century, of which it is undoubtedly a fine specimen.

The poet Churchyard, who lived at this time, probably referred to the new Market House in the following lines:—

"I held on way to ancient Shrewesbrie towne,
"And so from horse at lodging lighting downe
"I walkt the streates, and markt what came to weve,
"Found old things dead, as world were made a newe,
"For buildings gay, and gallant finely wrought,
"Had old device, through time supplanted cleane:

"Some houses bare, that seem'd to be worthe nought,
"Were fat within, that outward looked leane;
"Wit had won wealthe to stuff each empty place,
"The cunninge head, and labouring hand had grace
"To gayne and keepe, and lay up still in store,
"As man might say the heart could wish no more."

The principal front faces the west. In the centre there is a spacious semi-circular arch (now the entrance to the New Court). Over the arch are the arms of Queen Elizabeth in high relief, under a rich canopy ornamented with roses, &c. Attached to the imposts of the arch are pillars, each supporting the figure of a lion sitting on its haunches and bearing a shield on its breast above. On each side this portal is an open arcade of three semi-circular arches, resting on Doric pillars. The east side is similar to this, but without ornament. The north and south ends of the building have large open arches, with large square mullioned windows to light the upper storey, which are continued all round the building. The parapet is very bold, and consists of a series of embrasures curled like the Ionic volute, with pinnacles at each angle, and in the centre of each division of the building in the same grotesque style. Above the northern arch is a richly ornamented niche, in which stands a statue of Richard Duke of York, father of Edward IV. The figure is clothed in complete armour, with a surcoat emblazoned with his armorial bearings. An inscription on the right of this tells us that—"This statue was moved by order of the Mayor from the tower on the Welsh Bridge, in the year 1791." On the left hand of the figure is a shield of the Town Arms, very finely sculptured in high relief, and evidently of great antiquity. Over the southern arch, in a canopied niche, is the sculptured figure of an angel with wings expanded, bearing in his hands a shield with the arms of England and France quarterly. This fragment of antiquity was removed from the southern tower of the Castle Gate when that building was taken down to widen the street in 1825.

The ground floor of the building, which is 105 feet long by 24 wide, has hitherto been appropriated to the Corn Market on Saturdays and the reception of wool at the annual wool fairs. Overhead is, or rather was, a spacious chamber of the same size, which has done duty during the nearly three centuries of its existence in a variety of ways. Until the year 1803 it was rented by the company of drapers, and used for the purposes of the great flannel market, which once existed in Shrewsbury. If tradition may be relied on, this room could tell how the poor Welsh weavers were cheated by some of the Shrewsbury drapers in the measurement of their webs. It is said that a drum, revolving on an axle, was used for measuring the flannels. This drum, exactly a yard in circumference, was turned by a handle, and each revolution of the handle was counted as a yard without any consideration for the gradual increase in the diameter of the drum by the successive folds of the article measured thereon. What the feelings of the Cambrians were when the trick (if trick it were, and not a mere unintentional fraud) was discovered may be more easily imagined than described. At the date mentioned above the flannel market declined and the room was given up, and converted into warehouses. At a subsequent period it was used as a military depot, or store-house, for the Shropshire Militia, but the arms were removed hence to Chester Castle about forty years ago. But the fact that some old military head-gear was found during the late alteration would seem to indicate that this was not the first time it was used. The lower area, besides being used as a corn exchange, used to be fitted up as polling booths at the contested elections for the borough, and in the summer assizes in 1597 it is on record that the business being unusually great "the judges sat on a scaffold beneath the new Market House. The last special use to which it was applied was as a ball-room on the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales. In 1804 the building was repaired by the Corporation at an expense of more than 500*l*. The parapet and other parts of the

walls, with the decayed ornaments, were restored, and the clock turret was removed from the north end to the centre of the building. An ugly staircase on the east side projecting 16 feet into the roadway was taken down, and a shop which had been erected against it removed. A certain amount of repair to the parapet had been executed more than half a century before this, as we gather from the following rude inscription on one of the pinnacles of the west front, which records the fact:—

1740
Repaired
Edwd. Twiss
Esqr. Mayor.

About the year 1840 the upper floor of the building came into the hands of the Shrewsbury Mechanics' Institute, an offshoot from the Shropshire Mechanics' Institution, which latter society took the room after the collapse of its rival in 1846, and from which and the Literary Institute, with which it became incorporated, the present "Shrewsbury Institution" sprung. It has since been used as a temporary place of worship, as a concert room, and for exhibitions of various kinds, and more recently as a drill room for Rifle Volunteer recruits and for the practices of their band.

Some years ago the old clock, having become almost useless, was superseded by one of very superior construction, which cost upwards of £100, by Mr. Joyce, of Whitchurch. This clock has an illuminated dial at the north end of the building. The hour is struck on a very clear toned bell, which hangs in the centre turret. This bell bears the following inscription, which fixes its date:—"Richard Jones, Esq. Mayor, 1754." Besides its usual task of proclaiming the hour, it is "rung" annually on the 9th of November to summon the Council to the election of the mayor, and on some other special occasions.

The portion which has been devoted to the purposes of the court comprises just one half of the upper story, and has been arranged so as to provide the greatest possible convenience and accommodation for those whose business or curiosity may bring within its precincts. The principal apartment is, of course, the new court itself. This is 41 feet by 24. At the southern end and along part of the east side is "the bench," a raised seat for the magistrates, 30 feet in length, capable of accommodating the whole of the borough magistrates, if need be. The seats are cushioned, and a wide desk extends the whole length. The principal seat for the mayor, or other presiding magistrate, has a lofty back with massive moulded cornice. In the centre is a shield with the town arms carved in relief. This seat or chair, and also the elbows of the other seats, have been constructed out of some fine old English oak which formed part of some beams which had to be shortened to make room for the staircase. At the rear of the bench is a retiring room for the magistrates, with lavatory, &c. The ceiling of this portion, which was put up by the new Mechanics' Institute about 30 years ago, has been removed, and the original oak timbers of the roof, with their wooden pins, thoroughly cleaned and varnished.

PROVINCIAL. IPSWICH.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.—Some repairs have been begun in this church, the eastern part of the building being chosen as the starting-point for the renovation. When the plaster was knocked off the north pier of the chancel arch, a flight of stairs was discovered within the pier, which evidently, in olden times, led to the rood loft, the steps—made of stone—being much worn. The pier is in a more dilapidated condition than was expected, and it will be necessary to take it wholly down.

OBITUARY.

A recent notable death is that of John Scott, the Wizard of the North, as turfmen were fond of calling the veteran trainer of Whitewall. He has been the hero of all the stable-boys and sportsmen within the four seas for half a century; and, with Sir Tatton Sykes, he formed one of the most picturesque and striking representatives of the old race of turfites to be found at Tattersall's or Newmarket. John Scott, like Sir Tatton Sykes, adhered to the old Yorkshire garb to the last; and his figure, in the drab breeches, long gaiters, straight-cut coat (in which he has been painted), trotting up from "the Corner" to the Wold, with Jem Perrin at his side, to see his charges gallop and issue orders as to their discipline, will be remembered by every habitue of the Heath as long as that of Sir Tatton Sykes, in the long, straight-cut black coat, the ample frill, the beaver gloves, the drab breeches, and the mahogany tops, which were, with an expansive umbrella, quite as much part and parcel of the constitution as "Old Glory's."

DEATH OF AN OLD RINGER AT HOLMFIRTH.—The veteran change-ringer, Mr. Joseph Marsden, of Hey Gap, Holmfirth, died lately in the ninety-second year of his age. Deceased, about three weeks ago, accidentally fell and injured his leg, from the effects of which he has never recovered. For upwards of sixty years he has been a ringer. On completing his ninety-first year he assisted in ringing 120 changes. He was present at a great number of change-ringing contests, and himself assisted in obtaining forty-nine prizes. His great desire was to gain the number of fifty, but declining age prevented him from accomplishing this. He was widely known and universally respected.

NEARLY EIGHTY YEARS IN THE WORKHOUSE.—A man named William Smith, an inmate of the Bethnal Green Workhouse, died a few days since at the age of 103 years. It appears that the deceased went into the house when he was only twenty-seven years of age, and he had remained there ever since. When he was admitted, he appeared to be thoroughly worn out and destitute, but in two years he had so far regained his strength that he was made special messenger to the clerks, and he always said it was the kind treatment he had received in the workhouse which had prolonged his life.

THE death is announced of Mr. Thomas Roscoe, the editor of Lanzi's "History of Italian Painting," and the son of the author of "The Life of Leo the Tenth."

MR. BUTTERFIELD has been commissioned to alter and improve the church of St. Paul, Covent Garden. The galleries over the aisles are to be removed, open seats will replace the present pews, and the position of the organ will be altered.

SOME ancient paintings in distemper have been discovered in the church of Coppard, Essex. They serve to show that the whole of the east end of that edifice was formerly so decorated. A contemporary points out that these are the paintings referred to in Wright's "History of Essex" (1835) as having been observed when the church was "restored," 1690.

OLD readers at the British Museum will be glad to hear that Mr. Robert Cowtan has in the press a volume of "Memories" of that place.

A VALUABLE collection of books has been sent from the Trustees of the British Museum, as a present to the Birmingham Reference Library. The books chiefly relate to antiquities and art, and to natural history—twenty-six volumes coming in the category of the former, and 125 in that of the latter.